

Subject: Live On the Web: Coral Spawning
Date: Sat, 09 Aug 2003 08:57:25 -0400
From: Jim Hendee <jim.hendee@noaa.gov>
Organization: DOC/NOAA/AOML/OCD
To: coral-list@aoml.noaa.gov

Greetings, Coral-Listers,

As you can see from Dr. Alina Szmant's message below ("Alina Says"), dated February 21, 2003, spawning is anticipated for several species throughout Florida and the Caribbean during selected days in August. As you may recall, part of our Coral Reef Watch program at NOAA is the installation of Web-accessible Coral Cameras at selected stations where viewing specific events that can be witnessed are of value and interest to researchers and the lay public, and where funding resources permit. Thus, we would like to announce that our colleague Dave Ward of the Caribbean Marine Research Center and NOAA/AOML has positioned the St. Croix, USVI Coral Camera to point at a large colony of *Montastraea faveolata* in about 40' of water. The camera has a light on it that comes on for 10 minutes every thirty minutes beginning at 7:02pm (EST) and ending at 5:32am (last lighting). Hopefully, we will be able to witness the coral colony spawning some time between Aug 18-20, some time between 10pm and 2am, with a high probability of Aug 19 as the most active time. Hopefully, the coral will cooperate (it may be that that particular colony does not spawn). The URL for the Web Coral Camera is,

<http://www.coral.noaa.gov/>

and click on "Live Web Cams" in the left-side list of links, then on "UnderwaterCam." You must have Windows Media installed on your computer to access the images. You can also open up the data stream directly in Windows Media (and thus increase the size of the viewing window) using this URL:

<mms://192.111.123.141/uw-stx>

The camera is broadcasting at night all this week, and of course also during all daylight hours.

This effort is also part of our Coral Literature, Education and Outreach (CLEO) program (<http://www.coral.noaa.gov/cleo>, currently under development), under which we also soon be providing educational modules concerning coral bleaching and spawning. Please note that we will also be recording a higher quality video stream (as opposed to that over the Internet) of the event which will be downloadable (if they spawn) via the CLEO Web link at some time after the spawning.

Mark your calendars! This should be an interesting event.

Cheers,
Jim Hendee and the CREWS/Camera Team
(Clarke Jeffris, Louis Florit, Mike Shoemaker, Jules Craynock, Jeff Judas, Monika Gurnee, Derek Manzello, Dave Ward and Skeet Perry)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Coral Spawning Events for 2003

Date: Fri, 21 Feb 2003 16:14:02 -0500
From: Alina M. Szmant <szmanta@uncwil.edu>
To: Beaver, Carl <Carl.Beaver@fwc.state.fl.us>, coral-list@coral.aoml.noaa.gov

Dear Carl (and others):

I feel like I should start an "Alina says... " column, and make it an annual feature. I am glad to hear that I was accurate last year!

For summer of 2003: Alina says...

Full moon of Aug is on Aug 12 at 4:48 am.

Acropora spp will spawn sometime between Aug 15 and 17 at ca. 10:00 to 10:30 am at Florida latitudes and ca. 30-60 min earlier further south (ca. 2 hr after sunset)

Montastraea spp and Diploria strigosa will spawn Aug 18 to 20 at ca. 11 pm or so in Florida and ca. 30 to 60 min earlier further south. (ca. 3 hr after sunset)

In exchange for sticking my neck out once again, I hope those of you lucky enough to be out there and observe spawning will email me back and

let me know if your observations were on other dates. We refine our estimates each year by gathering more observations.

Cheers, and don't step on the corals in the frenzy!

Alina Szmant

P.S. I am not liable for any errors in my estimates, or any consequences of your spending your good time and money to be out there those nights. However, if it works out, you owe me a beer for having saved all the time and money trying to figure it out for yourself.

At 03:01 PM 2/21/03 -0500, Beaver, Carl wrote:

> Would any members wish to speculate as to the dates of coral spawning
> in the western Atlantic for 2003? Last years prediction (I think by
> Dr. Alina Szmant) hit the nail on the head and consequently the
Harte
> Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies was able to observe
> coral spawning on the Veracruz reefs for the first time.
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